

Translation of the relevant parts of the PCT Preliminary International Examination Report, dated November 26, 1997

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I. Basis of the Report

1. This report was drafted on the basis of the description, pp. 1-16, as filed originally, claims Nos. 1-19, submitted with the brief of Nov. 10, 1997, the drawings, sheets 1/6-6/6.

V. Substantiated ascertainment pursuant to Art. 35(2) as regards novelty, inventive step and susceptibility of industrial application; documents and explanations in support of this ascertainment

1. Ascertainment

novelty	claims 1-19	yes
inventive step	claims 1-19	yes
susceptibility of ind. appln.	claims 1-19	yes

2. Documents and explanations

The invention relates to a contour collimator for radiotherapy, comprising a plurality of plate-shaped diaphragm elements movably arranged with respect to each other in a guiding block to form a contour diaphragm for a radiation beam emitted by a radiation source towards the collimator, and at least one drive for moving the diaphragm elements. Such a contour collimator is known from citation FR-A-2 485 790 - cf. page 4, line 18 to page 5, line 24; Ill. 2.

In this prior art collimator, too, a drive (29) is associated with each diaphragm element (19), the drives of a group of diaphragm elements are adjacent and a driving transmission (23, 27) is provided between each drive (29) and the associated diaphragm element (19). A linearly acting electric motor (29) is used. The design according to the invention (a separate drive and driving transmission are associated with each diaphragm element) permits to equip each diaphragm element with a drive of its own thus actuating it separately in spite of the distance which is laterally very narrow between the individual diaphragm elements and corresponds approximately to the thickness of a diaphragm, e.g. 1 mm. This serves for accelerating the adjusting time for a contour collimator considerably, so that the irradiation time for each patient is reduced in one respect, which is a relief for the patient and also simultaneously accompanied by an increase in economic efficiency.

VII. Special deficiencies of the international application

It has been ascertained that the international application includes the following deficiencies as regards form or contents:

The following prior art appears to be relevant for the subject matter of the application and should be discussed briefly in the description.

(Rule 5.1(a) and (iii) and (iv) PCT): FR-A-2 485 790.

VIII. Special remarks on the international application

The following remarks have to be made on the clarity of the claims, the description and the drawings or on the question of whether the claims are fully supported by the description:

The description should be made consistent with new claim 1 (PCT, Chapter II 4.3).